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## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY China

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SUBJECT Economic and Political Information: Soviet

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Employees of Chinese Changchun Railway Company,

Mukden Office

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SUPPLEMENT TO  
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1. In 1945 and 1946 all key personnel and department heads of the Chinese Changchun (Chung Chang) Railway in Mukden were Soviet citizens. These Soviet employees of the railway remained until 1 December 1946, when they left Mukden for the USSR after the Chinese National Government had put considerable pressure on them and had appointed Chinese to their positions. Before he left Mukden in this group, Railway-Colonel Potkameni, Director (Third Rank) of the Shenyang District Department of the Chinese Changchun Railway, addressed the Soviet employees who were to remain. Potkameni said that official Soviet representation on the railway was ceasing because the National Government of China had violated the terms of the Sino-Soviet Treaty of 1945 (concerning the railway) and had appointed Chinese to all positions of authority and control in the company. He further stated that the Soviet authorities in the company had received no cooperation, merely antagonism, from the Chinese. He added that the Soviet employees who remained need not be concerned for their future as the company would eventually return to Soviet control and the employees would be given good positions.

[REDACTED] Note: The Chinese Changchun Railway Agreement, signed 14 August 1945, provided for a joint control by China and the USSR for a period of thirty years. Article VIII reads, in part, "If the Chief of a department is a national of China, the Assistant Chief shall be a national of the Soviet Union, and vice versa".)

2. The Soviet personnel listed below are subordinate to the Chinese "opposite number". In addition to these there are about 120 non-Chinese employees of the railway in Mukden, most of them Soviet citizens. They are considered to be locally-hired employees of the Chinese administration and not members of any official Soviet representation, as the Soviet Embassy in Nanking announced in 1947 that on the railway there were no Soviet citizens employed by Soviet authorities as outlined in the Treaty.
3. The head office of the Chinese Changchun Railway Shenyang District Department is on Tai Yuan Street. A list of key Soviet personnel follows:

- Roumyantsev, Nikolai, former chief of legal section, now assistant chief of legal section; a graduate of a Russian law university before the Revolution.
- Aidarova, Sadya, secretary to Roumyantsev; a Tartar
- Hopsev, Vladimir Simonovich, assistant accountant

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- d. Oinadiova, Maria, assistant of Kopeev
- e. Ivashenko (full name unknown), assistant chief engineer; was chief engineer during Soviet occupation.
- f. Mairkovsky, Inokonti Antonovich, assistant of Ivashenko
- g. Schterental (Shrental), August, assistant chief engineer of Water Supply Section; Russian-German, formerly a German citizen and Nazi sympathizer.
- h. Nikolayev, Aleksei, assistant chief of Maintenance Section
- i. Peretko, Simon, constructor
- j. Nikolayeva, Zinaida (daughter of Nikolayev), clerk
4. Working conditions for Soviet employees are good and treatment of them by the Chinese is described as fair. The working day begins at 8 a.m. and ends at 3:50 p.m. with no break; the working week is six full days. Most of the employees in the offices merely put in time. Employees at the station sign in and then leave for the day after half an hour or so. All engineers and technicians generally work the full day. Some of the employees are engineers and technicians who were hired by the Harbin District office to work in the Fushun industries. They were released from their jobs in Fushun on 10 April 1946 but cannot be discharged by the Mukden office as they were hired in Harbin. As they have no real jobs in the Mukden office, they are paid a token wage of NEC \$250,000 monthly and are allowed to hold other jobs. These employees, unlike most of the Mukden Soviet employees, wear the official railway uniform and hold railway rank.
5. Wages paid by the railway are well over the usual Mukden standard. Assistant department heads and assistant chief engineers receive NEC \$1,200,000 to NEC \$1,500,000 monthly. Interpreters, clerks and technicians receive from NEC \$800,000 to NEC \$1,100,000 monthly. The telephone operators, semi-skilled laborers and ordinary laborers receive from NEC \$560,000 to NEC \$800,000 monthly.  
 Note: In November 1947 the rate of exchange was NEC \$15,00 to U.S. \$1.00.)
6. At one time during 1947 a representation from the Soviet employees went to Almazov, Head of Mukden Torgpreditvo and leader of the Mukden Soviet community, to complain of discrimination and mistreatment by the Chinese authorities of the railway. Almazov replied that he could do nothing for them as they were considered to be locally-hired by the Chinese and not part of an official representation. He then quoted the official stand that had been taken by the Soviet Embassy.
7. This is an unofficial union of Soviet employees of the railway. The head of the union is Rougantsev. His assistant, Vansovich, appears to be more closely associated with Almazov than any of the other employees of the railway and it is believed that he reports to Almazov on the activities of the other employees and their relations with the Chinese authorities of the railway. On 15 December 1947, Rougantsev and Vansovich asked permission of Almazov to form an active union of Soviet employees of the railway. Almazov would not approve this.
8. On or about 16 February 1948, Chinese officials of the company announced that they had received word from Nanking that all employees of the railway in Mukden were to be given an opportunity to resign temporarily and would receive three months' wages. The company would also assist those desiring to leave Mukden to secure air passage out so that they might obtain other jobs in North China. It was announced that those who desired to remain could do so but that the company would be unable to guarantee payment of salaries after March 1948. It was explained that this was necessary because of the losses of the company and the almost complete non-operation of railway service.

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9. On 16 February 1948, Rouryantsov, as senior Soviet employee, called together a number of the Soviet employees and advised them not to resign and not to take advantage of the company's offer. He described as "cheap elements" the six or seven who had recently resigned. He went on to say that even with the difficult times it was their duty to stay and that there would be a bright future for those who did. He said that he could not order them to stay but that as good Soviet citizens they should do so.

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10. Rouryantsov, acting on word from the Soviet Embassy in Nanking, called together his Soviet subordinates immediately following the above announcement by company officials. The Chinese offer was carefully explained to all those present. Rouryantsov concluded that he would remain in any case as he had been ordered to do so.

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